

XL.—*On new Species of Central-Asian Birds.* By General N. M. PRJEVALSKY*. (Translated from the Russian by E. DELMAR MORGAN.)

SINCE the publication in 1876 of 'Materials for the Avifauna of Mongolia and the Tangatan country'†, containing my ornithological observations during my first journey in Central Asia, I have accomplished three more journeys in that country. One of the chief objects of my special investigations during these Explorations was, as before, ornithology, and a mass of observations was obtained on the birds of this wide and almost unknown tract of Asia, where I found altogether 430 species.

The periodical repetition of my journeys, the preparation of geographical reports, and other occupations have prevented my undertaking the special elaboration of the materials collected, and have obliged me to defer this work to a more favourable opportunity. Even now I can only describe the new species of birds found during my second, third, and fourth journeys. Of these there were nine; but it is very possible that upon a more careful study of the materials collected some more novelties which escaped notice on the hurried glance through the collection may be found. The new species of birds found on my first journey numbered twenty, which were described in the above-mentioned work. On all four journeys about 5000 specimens of birds were collected, and these have been transferred to the Museum of the Imperial Academy of Science.

I deem it my duty to express my sincere acknowledgments to the learned Curator of the Zoological Museum of the Imperial Academy of Science, F. D. Pleske, for his obliging assistance in the present work.

* [Read at a Meeting of the Physico-Mathematical Section of the Imperial Academy of Science, St. Petersburg, on the 13th January, 1887. We are much indebted to Mr. Delmar Morgan for enabling us to give this early account of so many novelties.—EDD.]

† [The ornithological part of General Prjevalsky's first work on Mongolia was translated by Mr. Carl Craemers for Rowley's 'Ornithological Miscellany,' vol. ii.—E.D.M.]

1. *LEPTOPECILE ELEGANS*, sp. n.

Mas: vertex et occipite pallide violaceo-cinereis, fronte pallidiore; crista alba; loris nigris; genis, superciliis, collique partibus postica et laterali castaneis. Dorso cyanescente-olivaceo; scapularibus brunnescente-olivaceis, uropygio cæruleo; gastræo toto cinnamomeo, abdomine pallidiore, lateribus violaceo tinctis. Remigibus, rectricibusque fuscis, pallide cæruleo marginatis.

Fem: capitis parte superiore sordidiore quam in mare; crista brevior; loris maculisque nuchalibus nigris. Striis superciliaribus angustis nigro-castaneis. Collo postico rufescente-olivaceo; dorso scapularibusque fusciscentioribus. Uropygio cyanescente-olivaceo; genis cinerascens; gula pectoreque sordide albis, abdomine rufo tincto, lateribus rufescente-violaceis. Remigibus rectricibusque ut in mare, marginibus rectricum magis olivaceis.

Dimensions in millimetres :—

	Length*.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.
♂	104-112	152-165	53-55	48-55	9.0	19.5-20.5
♀	104-110	158-165	54-56	46-49	9-10	20

Of the primaries 5=6 are the longest, the 4th being only a little shorter, and sometimes of equal length; 3=8; 2<10; the 1st is not quite double the length of the upper coverts. Bill black; eyes red; tarsus dusky red, toes and claws darker.

Male. Upper part of the head pale lilac-grey; the forehead paler; gape black. On the nape of the neck is a white tuft about 10 millim. longer than the nearest head-feathers. The narrow superciliaries, cheeks, lores, sides and back of neck chestnut-coloured. Tail-coverts azure-blue, with reddish or dusky-olive tips; upper tail-coverts pale azure-blue. The blue tinge on the back is likewise paler and mingled with dusky olive. Shoulders dusky olive. Throat and breast light chocolate, paler on the belly; flanks and under tail-feathers chocolate with violet tinge. Tail and wings brown; rectrices and primaries with pale blue margins;

* The measurements taken were from the point of the bill to the end of the tail: from freshly killed birds.

secondaries and upper tail-coverts with dusky-olive margins. Lower wing-coverts and feathers underneath the shoulders the same colour as the belly.

Female. Crown of the head dark lilac-grey; forehead paler; the white or lilac-white tuft on the nape half the length of that in the male; along the sides of the crown are broad black bars united by narrow rusty black superciliaries with the black lores. Back of the neck rusty olive; back, shoulders, wide margins of the inner primaries, and upper wing-coverts dusky olive. Upper tail-feathers greyish olive with reddish tips. Sides of neck, throat, and breast dirty white; cheeks and ear-coverts greyish with olive tinge; abdomen rufous; lower tail-feathers paler than those of the male; flanks reddish violet behind. Tail and wings same as the male, except that the margins of the rectrices are paler.

This beautiful Tit was first discovered by me in April 1880, on the Upper Hoang-ho, to the south of Koko-nor lake, and was afterwards seen by our party in February 1884 in the mountain-forests near the temple of Chertinton, north-east of Sining. On my first journey in 1872-73 we did not find this species. In a word, *L. elegans* is distributed throughout the whole of the hilly country in the basin of the Upper Hoang-ho, where it appears to be restricted to the coniferous and spruce-forested mountain-belts and defiles ranging from 7,500 to 11,000 feet above sea-level. It is not a rare bird, and associates with *Pæcile affinis*, or more often with *Regulus himalayensis*, with both of which it has much in common in character and habits. Like them it flits from tree to tree, constantly clinging to the boughs in search of insects' eggs, its winter food. In general *L. elegans* is an active, restless bird, and by no means shy. Its note is a feeble whistle, at times a chirrup like that of the Wren. At the end of April the paired birds build their nests, which are probably lined with the downy covert-feathers of *Crossoptilon auritum*, for I have several times watched this bird dragging one of these feathers and overpowered in so doing by a strong

wind ; but we were not so fortunate as to find a nest or obtain young birds.

2. *LEPTOPÆCILE OBSCURA*, sp. n.

L. sophiæ simillima, sed minor, gastræoque toto unicolore.

Dimensions.	<i>L. sophiæ.</i>										
	<i>L. obscura</i> *, ♂.	From the Thian Shan †.	From Kan-sub.	From the Koko-nor Mountains.	From the Sources of the Yellow River.	From Tsaidana.	From the Altyn-tagh.	From Russian Range ‡.	From the Tarim.	From the Aksu Oasis.	From the Southern slope of the Thian Shan (R. Habtsa-gui-gol).
Length	110	124 ♂	114-118	...	...	...	118	...	...	...	110-115
Expanse	?	153	143-150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140-143
Folded wing (or closed)	50	51	49-52	52	50	53-54	50	50	49	51	51
Tail	51	55	54-57	57	55	53-57	54	54	54	57	57
Culmen	8.5	9	8.3	8.3	8.3	9	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.0-8.5
Tarsus	18.5	?	19-21	19	19	20-21	19	20	20	20	20

Proportions of primaries the same as in *L. sophiæ* ; culmen black ; eyes ? (The eyes of *L. sophiæ* from Kansuh are red.) Tarsus dark fulvous colour.

Male, in well-worn summer plumage (killed in June). Crown of head rufous-chestnut ; head and supercilia ochraceous white ; gape black ; nape, back, and shoulders dusky olive ; tail-coverts bright violet-blue. Checks, sides of neck, all the abdomen, flanks, and under tail-feathers rufous cinnamon, with bluish-violet tipped feathers, like the

* We have only three specimens of *L. obscura* in our collection—two young males and one old, the diagnosis being made from the last.

† According to Severtzow : 'Vertical and Horizontal Distribution of the Fauna of Turkestan,' p. 135.

‡ In this specimen the outer web of three pairs of rectrices is white, and the proportion of the quills is different, one wing being unfortunately broken ; and in another, killed in May, the feathers were perhaps not fully grown.

tail-coverts, brighter towards the hinder part of the flanks. Wings fulvous, with greenish marginal feathers and rufous margins on the posterior quills and larger upper coverts; lower wing-coverts greyish white, with reddish tips, much worn in the specimen described. Rectrices dusky black, with greenish-grey margins; outer web of rectrices white.

Young males in fresh summer (June) plumage have less brilliantly coloured tail-coverts, paler abdomen, dark-fulvous quills, and black rectrices. We did not obtain a female.

This species was only discovered on my fourth journey into Central Asia, in North-eastern Thibet, in the mountain-forests on the Upper Blue River (Yang-tse-Kiang, or Dy-chu), at a height of 13,000 to 14,000 feet. Its habits are not distinguishable from those of *L. sophiæ* (which inhabits the neighbouring basin of the Upper Hoang-ho, but is not found on the Upper Yang-tse Kiang); and it likewise mostly frequents the thickets of the alpine zone; whereas *L. elegans* is confined to the forests on the lower belts of the mountains.

Here let me say of *L. sophiæ* that this species, first discovered in the Western Thian Shan by our well-known zoologist and explorer, the late N. A. Severtzow, was met with on all four of my journeys in Central Asia—in the Thian Shan, in the basin of the Tarim, in the Russian Altyn tagh and Nan-shan ranges, in Tsaidam and its neighbouring mountainous Tibetan border-land, lastly in the basin of the Upper Hoang-ho and on Lake Koko-nor. In these last localities—in the mountains of Kan-suh (along the Tatung-gol), Koko-nor, and on the Upper Hoang-ho, south of this lake, similar in climate and other physical conditions to the forested parts of the Thian Shan—the specimens of *L. sophiæ* obtained by us are not distinguishable, on comparison, from the typical specimens brought home by Severtzow, and have the same deep colouring both of the dusky as well as of the ultramarine feathers. The seventeen specimens obtained by us in the region intervening between the basin of the Upper Hoang-ho and the Thian Shan (including the southern treeless slope of this last-mentioned range, in fact

in extremely arid, desert tracts) have a pale coloration, especially of the ultramarine feathers of the tail-coverts, throat, breast, and flanks. In size and other respects the paler are not distinguishable from the darker specimens. This pale variety, however, has been made into a separate subspecies by our celebrated ornithologist Dr. M. Menzbier, and described by him in 'The Ibis,' 1885, p. 353, under the name of *L. sophiæ*, var. *major*.

In habits *L. sophiæ* is non-migratory, and chiefly belongs to the mountains, where it may be met with in the various ranges of its distribution at heights varying between 3,000 and 13,000 feet of absolute elevation. In the oases at the foot of the Thian Shan, such as Ak-su and Utch-Turfan, this little bird is common enough, but in the wide expanse of plains along the Tarim and in Tsaidam it is rare. It only frequents thick copses, whether of barberry, willow, wild rose, or tamarisk, in the defiles of the southern slopes of the Thian Shan; or the thickest shrubberies of rhododendron, *Caragana jubata*, *Potentilla*, and *Salix*, in the alpine zone of the Kan-suh mountains; or, lastly, thickets of *Myricaria*, kharmyk, and tamarisk in the defiles of the Tibetan mountains bordering Tsaidam and the Tarim lowlands. In the forested belts of mountains, as already stated, it lives chiefly in the alpine zone of underwood, and only occasionally descends to the lower wooded region along defiles of mountain-torrents. It is a nimble climber in underwood and a swift runner. Its note is a feeble whistle. In the alpine zone of the Kan-suh mountains *L. sophiæ* is frequently met with; usually in small flocks, associated with *Pacile superciliosa*.

In the forests of the Upper Hoang-ho, notably on Mt. Jakhhan-fidza, I found one of its nests on the 16/28 April, 1880, quite ready, but as yet empty. This nest was suspended, at a height of about 7 feet, from a branch of juniper, another supporting it below; it was formed of moss, sheep's-wool, and down from the flowers of the willow, lined with the downy coverts of *Crossoptilon auritum*. In shape it was round like a ball, 5 inches in diameter, with a narrow opening above.

3. *ACCENTOR KOSLOWI*, sp. n.

This species may be referred to that group of *Accentors* to which belong *A. modularis orientalis* and *A. rubidus fervidus*, but differs from these in not having striated ear-coverts—a distinction which might separate it into a special subgroup.

Notæ toto brunnescente-fulvo, longitudinaliter sordide brunneo maculato; uropygio concolore. Pectore abdomineque fulvescente-albis; corporis lateribus longitudinaliter brunneo maculatis; gula pallide fusca; regione parotica haud striata. Marginibus tectricum alarum duas fascias pallidas transversas furgentibus. Femina mari simillima.

Dimensions:—

	Length.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.
♂	155	219	68-74	67-72	9-11	19-20
♀	148-155	211-214	68	68	10	20

The 1st primary is a little shorter than the upper coverts; $2 > 7$; 3rd, 4th, and 5th are the longest and equal; 6th is only a little shorter than these. In the tail the outermost pair of rectrices are 4-6 millim. shorter than $4th = 5 > 6$.

The bill is black, the base of the mandibles light horny; feet flesh-coloured, nails dark horny. Eyes light hazel.

In winter plumage, four males, one female, and two of doubtful sex have the upper part of the head and body yellowish light brown, with blackish spots on the shafts, more distinct on the back and less so on the nape and head. On the forehead these spots merge into a general light-brown colour; upper tail-feathers spotless, except occasionally on the longest of the upper tail-coverts. The throat is a smoky brown, in the lower part with whitish tips, not worn off in December and January, forming an indistinct half-collar on the neck; ear-coverts are the same dusky brown, but with no bars on the shafts; neither are there superciliaries. The underparts are yellowish white, with a brown tinge on the breast, reddish on the flanks, where the posterior feathers have dark bars on the shafts; lower wing-coverts rufous white, without spots. Rectrices, quills, and upper wing-coverts brown, with tawny margins, wider on the hinder quills and wing-coverts. Yellowish-white

tips on the greater and median coverts form two narrow bars on the wing. Under wing-coverts brownish red.

The female is not distinguishable in plumage from the male.

This species, named by me after the valued coadjutor and companion of my fourth journey in Central Asia, P. K. Koslow, was first met with in December 1883 on the road from Urga to Ala-shan. We then obtained only one specimen; but in January 1884 we found this species sufficiently numerous in the Central Ala-shan, in a small but almost barren group of mountains near the wells of Shanghin-dolai; and we once observed it in the sands of Tyngeri, in Southern Ala-shan. It is generally rare in the Gobi, where it doubtless only winters. It probably nests in Southern Siberia and in the wooded mountains bordering on the Gobi, such as the Ala-shan and Munni-ula ranges. Its note in winter is very like a whistle. We did not find *A. koslowi* in any other part of Central Asia except the Gobi; but a specimen of the same species was sent to the Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences by M. Beresowsky, who obtained it in December in the environs of Kobdo, in South-western Mongolia.

4. BUDYTES LEUCOCEPHALA, sp. n.

Mas: capite albo: cervice colloque postico cinereo tinctis. Dorso, scapularibus, uropygio, supracaudalibusque flavescence- vel virescente-olivaceis; gula, pectore, abdomine, lateribus corporis et subcaudalibus intense flavis. Alis duabus fasciis transversis flavescence-albis ornatis. Duabus rectricibus, utrinque externis, albis, parte inferiore pogoniorum internorum nigro marginata.

The description is made from two full-grown males; we did not obtain a female.

Of the primaries 1=2, the longest; 3rd is only a little shorter. The bill and feet are black; the eyes dark hazel.

Male. Forehead, crown, ear-coverts, cheeks, lores, and chin white; back of the head and nape whitish grey (in the younger male they were leaden grey, extending also to the crown). Throat, breast, abdomen, and flanks, as well as

under tail-feathers, bright yellow. Upper part of the body yellow or greenish olive; only the front upper tail-coverts show a dark-brown colour. Primaries dark brown, with yellowish margins, wide on the hindermost. The yellowish-white tips of the large and median wing-coverts form here two bars. The lower wing-coverts are yellowish white. Rectrices darker than the quills; in fact almost black, except the two outermost pairs, which are white, with a black edge, extending from the base to two thirds of the inner web, and with a narrow black stripe in the basal half of the secondaries; a white speck on the point of the third rectrix. A younger male had hardly any spot here and more black on the white rectrices.

This Wagtail was first discovered by us in the spring of 1879 migrating in Dzungaria, on the Urungu river, and in the Southern Altai. The first arrivals were observed on the 15/27 April, but they may have appeared a few days earlier. They kept in small flocks, from five to ten individuals in each, and were frequently seen. In May they ceased to appear, neither did we find them in any other regions visited by us.

There is, however, an entry in my diary to the effect that on the 31st August (12th September) of the above year, 1879, this species was observed apparently in autumnal flight, on lake Toso-nor in Tsaidam.

5. *LANIUS GIGANTEUS*, sp. n.

Maximus. Notæo toto sordide cinereo ut in *L. meridionali*; gastræo albo, pectore abdomineque rosaceo tinctis; loris regionibusque paroticis nigris; secundariis apice albis, speculo basali nullo. Scapularibus albis; tectricibus minimis alarum superioribus cinereis, inferioribus omnibus albis. Cauda gradata; rectricibus duabus mediis nigris, extimis, interdum et secundis, albis, reliquis apice albis.

Dimensions :—

	Length.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.
♂	321	432	140	173	20	34
♀	303-312	414-435	135-141	157-166	20	33-34

Tail strongly barred; outermost rectrices shorter by 49–57 millim. than the median and longest. Bill and feet black; eyes dark hazel. Coloration very similar to that of *L. meridionalis*.

Male. Head and upper part of body dark grey, but lighter on the tail-coverts. All the abdomen white, with a rose tint on breast and belly, and grey on the flanks. The narrow superciliaries, bars under the eyes, and lores black. Wings dull black. Primaries white in their basal half, forming a large mirror; secondaries have only white at the tips; shoulders white. The small upper wing-coverts grey, remainder dull black; lower wing-coverts white.

The outermost rectrices are white, with a narrow black stripe down the basal half of their shafts; the next pair are the same colour, though in some cases with a larger black mark on the basal half on the inner web, or with a narrow black edge on the same web. The remainder are dull black, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th pairs with continually diminishing white tips; the median rectrices without terminal spots.

The female does not differ in plumage from the male.

We obtained eight specimens of this Shrike for our collection—three young, one old male, and four old females.

In the young birds obtained early in June the grey colour on the upper part of the body is thickly covered with a reddish-brown tint. The rose-colour on the abdomen is also mingled with a reddish hue; the breast has barely perceptible wavy brown striations. The blackness of the gape and the cheek is less intense; the superciliaries are not so marked. The quills and upper wing-coverts have narrow brownish margins. The second pair of rectrices are black on the basal half of the inner web; the two median rectrices have small reddish spots on the tips.

This gigantic Shrike, larger than all its congeners, was first met with by us on the 19/31 May, 1880, on the Upper Hoang-ho, south of Gomi. A pair were nesting on the border of the drift-sands, where the willow and an occasional poplar grow. The male bird was an excellent songster.

The same year, as we were skirting the eastern shore of Koko-nor lake, on the 1/13 July, we came upon a brood of three young birds, again in drift-sands among clumps of thick spruce-woods. The old birds were then moulting, and their young had already abandoned the nest. The note of old and young alike was very loud. A short time afterwards we came across a second brood in the mountains bordering the plateau of Koko-nor lake.

In the spring of 1884, on my fourth journey in Central Asia, the first migratory specimens (three in number) were observed on the 14/26 April on the southern slope of the South Koko-nor range. They kept in the underwood, and the males sang splendidly. A few days afterwards we secured a solitary female, and lastly, during the autumnal flight in the same year (1884), a single specimen was observed on the 15/27 August, in thickets of tamarisk in the ravine of the Khatu-gol, on the northern margin of the Burkhan-Buddha range.

Thus *L. giganteus* is in general a rare bird, and up to the present time only found in the basins of the Upper Hoang-ho and Koko-nor lake. Like the Shrikes, its habits are predatory. My companion, M. Roborowsky, once shot a female which had just caught and devoured an *Arvicola*.

6. LEUCOSTICTE ROBOROWSKII, sp. n.

Capite colloque coccineis; gula maculis triangularibus micante-albis, cervice similibus, sed minoribus, ornatis. Toto corpore miniato-roseo; marginibus singularum plumarum colli postici, dorsi, scapularium, tectricumque alarum externarum coccineis. Remigibus et rectricibus brunneis, roseo marginatis.

Dimensions:—

	Length.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	(Culmen.)	Tarsus.
♂	168	356	123	90	13·5	21

The 2nd primary is the longest; 1 = 3 a little shorter. The bill is dark horny, the base of both mandibles paler; eyes dark hazel; feet brown.

Male. Upper part of the head carmine, with silvery

specks on the nape; sides of head and throat blackish carmine*, with large triangular silvery spots on the throat. The whole body is of a reddish-pink colour, with carmine margins on the back of the neck and back, as well as on the shoulders and upper wing-coverts; the prevailing colour of these latter is light brown. Tail-feathers, upper and lower tail-coverts are pink; thighs white; on the hinder flank-feathers a few long blackish bars are noticeable. The feathers under the shoulders and the lower wing-coverts are white, with pink margins. The primaries are brown, with whitish-red margins, wider on the hinder ones, which have greyish-white tips. This is also nearly the colour of the shading on the inner webs of the primaries (except their points) and partly of the secondaries. The rectrices are the same colour as the primaries, with whitish-red margins on their outer webs, except the outer pair, which have white margins.

We only obtained one specimen of this species—a male in summer plumage, much worn, from which the diagnosis has been made.

This species is named by me in honour of my traveling companion and assistant, Lieut. Roborowsky, whose untiring energy was of such great service to the scientific labours of my third and fourth expeditions in Central Asia.

On all my four journeys in Central Asia, *L. roborowskii* was only once met with, on the 1/13 August, 1884, on the pass leading from the plateau of Tibet across the eastern part of the Burkhan-Buddha range. Two or three pairs of these birds at that time kept together with *Leucosticte hæmatopygia* in the highest zone of the alpine region, at a height of 15,000 to 16,000 feet, descending a little to the alpine meadows; but we only obtained one male bird. We did not hear its note, and in habits and mode of life we found this little bird indistinguishable from *L. hæmatopygia*.

7. PYRGILAUDA BARBATA, sp. n.

Notæo rufescente-fulvo, immaculato. Collo postico lateri-

* The black colour appears here, owing to the tips of the feathers being so much worn.

busque ejus rufescentibus. Fronte genisque albis. Macula frontali media, superciliis, loris, mento, gulæque parte superiore nigris. Reliquo gastræo albo, corporis lateribus rufo tinctis.

Dimensions taken from an old male and an old female; the remaining five specimens in our collection are either young birds or of doubtful sex.

	Length.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	(Culmen.)	Tarsus.
♂ ..	145-150	275-280	93-100	55-60	10-11	18-20
♀ ..	150	280-290	92-97	56-57	10-11	19-20

The apex of the wing is formed by three primaries, of which 1=3, 2nd is a little longer, but sometimes 1=2. The tail is slightly curved. The bill, which is black, is shorter and much thicker than in *P. ruficollis*; the legs are also black; the eyes light hazel.

The upper part of the body is of a brownish sandy colour, becoming rufous-brown in fresh autumn plumage; this species has none of those dark spots on the back peculiar to others of the genus *Pyrgilauda*. The nape is pale red; sides of neck the same colour, but deeper. Forehead, sides of crown, and cheeks white. The streak from the bill along the centre of the forehead to the crown, the straight superciliaries parallel with it, and the lores are black, as are also the chin and upper part of the throat, forming a kind of bushy beard. The underparts are white, flanks reddish; lower wing-coverts and rump white; median upper tail-coverts the same as the tail-feathers and back, but the lateral tail-feathers are white. The primaries are blackish brown, and from the fourth, sometimes also from the third, have a white speck in the centre, increasing on the posterior quills, thus forming an oblique white stripe, hardly observable, however, on the closed wing; the outer margin of the primaries is white, that of the others (except the inner ones) brownish; the secondaries are tipped with white.

The lesser wing-coverts are brownish grey; the remainder the same colour as the wing, but these, as well as the inner primaries, have a wide edge the same colour as the back. The central rectrices are blackish brown, with a wide reddish

border ; this, too, is the colour of the specks on the tips of the remaining rectrices. These specks are divided below by a wide band from the basal half of the same rectrices, where the prevailing colour is dark brown or blackish brown mixed with white ; the outer web of the first rectrix, and sometimes of the second, is white.

The female is not distinguishable from the male.

This bird, together with *P. ruficollis*, inhabits the meadows in the mountain defiles of Northern Tibet at an elevation of 12,000 to 14,000 feet. There it appears to be local, and is generally a rarer bird than its congener, although common enough. In the steppes of Koko-nor, where *P. ruficollis* is numerous, we only once found a pair of *P. barbata*. In Northern Tibet we only came across it on the north of the Tang-la range, while *P. ruficollis* was frequently met with on the southern slope of these mountains as well. In the winter of 1884-85 *P. barbata* was occasionally met with again, in company with *P. ruficollis*, in that part of Northern Tibet marching with Gass (south of Lob-nor). In character and habits of life both species are identical, though the note differs. They live in the burrows of *Lagomys ladacensis* which cover in countless numbers the meadow-expanses of Koko-nor and Northern Tibet. In these burrows the little bird we are describing passes the night and hides from danger ; here, too, it probably forms its nest. Its flight is undulatory, low, and rapid ; it is also a swift runner. In the winter of 1880-81 *P. barbata* was occasionally found in Northern Tibet in flocks of twenty to forty ; but we neither heard its song nor that of *P. ruficollis*.

8. PYRGILAUDA KANSUENSIS, sp. n.

Minima. Notæ brunnescens-fulvo ; capite sordidiore, uropygio pallidiore. Collo postico albescente-fulvo, dorso longitudinaliter brunneo maculato. Gastræo sordide albo, corporis lateribus rufo tinctis. Remigum brunnearum pogoniis externis fulvescente marginatis, speculo alari minimo. Rectricibus brunneis margine fulvescentibus ; externarum pogoniis externis albis, reliquum maculis albis variegatis.

Dimensions :—

	Length.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	(Culmen.)	Tarsus.
♂	127-130	117-121	77	39	9	17.1
♀	?	?	76	41	9	17.3

Of the primaries the 2nd is the longest; 1 = 3, and sometimes 1 = 2. The outer rectrices (in full plumage) of its delicately striated tail are 3 mm. shorter than the tertiaries. The bill is yellow, tipped with brown at the extremities of both mandibles; the tarsus brownish, toes darker, nails dark brown. Eyes hazel.

Top of the head uniform brown; nape and sides of neck yellowish-whitish-brown; back yellowish brown, with blackish long streaks; tail-coverts and upper tail-coverts reddish brown. Lores and hardly perceptible superciliaries dusky whitish; ear-coverts light brown; cheeks and all the underparts of the body dirty white, with reddish-brownish tinge on cheeks and crop, more reddish on the flanks, which are uniform in colour; feathers on rump rufous white. In full plumage the upper part of the throat shows a blackish colour through the white points of the feathers, where these are not abraded. The wings are blackish brown, with brownish-yellowish margins, both on the quills and upper coverts; the margin of the outer web of the first rectrix is white. In the centre of the inner web of the flight-feathers, beginning at the fourth, there are white specks forming a mirror, hardly noticeable when the wing is closed; the lining of the wings is white. The tail is dark brown, with brownish-yellowish margins to the rectrices; the outermost pair is white, sometimes with dark-brown spots on the inner webs; the remaining rectrices, with the exception of two or four medians, which are of one colour, are white on the centre of the inner, and sometimes of the outer web.

The female is not distinguishable from the male. In all my four journeys into Central Asia the species described was met with only once, on the 7/19 August, 1880, in the province of Kan-suh, in the steppe and partly in the hilly belt north of the Chagrin-gol. In the beginning of February 1884, on my second visit to the Chagrin steppe, we did not come

across any of these little birds, although we searched diligently for them during three days.

In habits and manner of life *P. kansuensis* is not distinguishable from other *Pyrgilaudæ*. It also frequents burrows ; but these, instead of belonging to the *Lagomys*, of which there are none here, are the dwellings of a species of *Spermophilus*. Its flight is low, undulatory, and generally to no great distance.

9. *OTOCORYS TELESCHOWI*, sp. n.

Magnitudine *O. penicillatæ*. Fronte, pileo, loris genisque nigris ; his â macula pectorali nigra fasciis albis separatis.

Dimensions :—

	Length.	Expanse.	Closed wing.	Tail.	Bill (culmen).	Tarsus.
♂ ..	188-190	330-348	109-114	80-85	12-13.5	24-24.5
♀ ..	184-196	318-344	103-104	77-78	11-13	22.5-23

The three outer primaries are the longest, the second of these being longer than the others $=3>1$; sometimes $2>1=3$, or $2>1=3$, lastly, $1=2=3$. Eyes are dark hazel ; upper mandible black, lower bluish horn-coloured, tipped with black ; legs dark brown.

Male. Forehead, crown, lores, cheeks and sides of the throat, and breast-band deep black ; the latter divided from that on the neck by a wide white band uniting the white throat with the white sides of the neck ; the stripes at the back of the eyes towards the back of the head and wing-coverts are also white, the latter not uncommonly with a brownish or rufous tinge. The breast, belly, and rump are white, with a brownish or reddish tint ; flanks, and sometimes thigh-feathers, pale reddish. Back of the head and nape of neck brownish pale wine-colour, extending to the lesser and median of the upper wing-coverts. Back and shoulders brownish sandy, with narrow blackish stripes on the shafts, sometimes barely noticeable. Tail-feathers and upper tail-coverts reddish sandy colour.

The two central rectrices are the same colour as the back, *i. e.* brownish or yellowish sandy, with shaded blackish stripes lengthwise ; the other rectrices are black. The outer web of the outermost pair about halfway up has a white margin,

but in its upper part the whole web is white; the next rectrices have only a white margin on the upper part of the outer web. The quills are dark brown, with yellowish-white margins on the outer webs and tips, similarly tipped on the secondaries; the outer web of the primaries is altogether white; the tertiary quills, as well as the upper wing-coverts, have a wide border the same colour as the back. The lining of the wings and feathers under the shoulders are white.

The female, like others of the genus *Otocorys*, has a narrower black belt on the breast; the sides of the throat and head are blackish brown (they are black in the male), becoming sandy yellowish on the crown, assimilating to the upper part of the body.

This species—named by me after my travelling companion, P. P. Teleschow, senior subaltern of the Trans-Baikalian Cossacks, who prepared the skins of all specimens obtained on my fourth journey, and actively cooperated in the general work of the expedition—frequents the mountainous border of Northern Tibet, in the region between the gorges of the Cherehen and Khoten, *i. e.*, the newly discovered Russian range and that of Keria. Besides this, *O. teleschowi* was first met with by us in the Chamen-tagh range, on the Tibetan plateau, to the west of Gass. It is, however, more common in the Russian range, where it haunts springs and rivulets at the entrances of defiles along the northern foot of the mountains. Its note, flight, and habits are not distinguishable from those of *O. albigula*, which it replaces in the above-mentioned ranges.

XLI.—*Description of a rare Species of Plover from the Cameroons Coast.* By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.Z.S.

MR. H. H. JOHNSTON has recently sent home a small collection of West African birds, procured by him in the swampy marshes of the Rio del Rey, near the Cameroons. This collection contained two specimens of a Plover entirely unknown to me, so I consulted Mr. Seebohm, who is preparing